

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BERLIN 01275 211550Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-06 EB-08 DOTE-00 HA-05 CA-01 SCS-06  
/106 W

-----107649 211904Z /46

R 211536Z FEB 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6765  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
USMISSION USNATO  
USMISSION USBERLIN  
CINCEUR  
CINCUSAFE  
CINCUSAREUR  
USELMLO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 01275

E.O.11652: GDS  
TAGS: PGOV, MILI, BQG, GE, UR  
SUBJECT: GDR MFA COMPLAINTS ABOUT ALLEGED TRAFFIC  
VIOLATIONS

REF: A) BERLIN 0870;R 041052Z FEB 78 B) STATE 23408;R 280311Z JAN 7  
8  
C) USBERLIN 0382 R 161530Z FEB 78

1. THE BRITISH AND FRENCH EMBASSIES IN EAST BERLIN HAVE  
INFORMED US THAT WITHIN THE PAST WEEK THE GDR FOREIGN  
MINISTRY HAS ALSO MADE REPRESENTATIONS TO THEM ABOUT  
ALLEGED TRAFFIC AND OTHER VIOLATIONS BY FRENCH AND  
BRITISH CITIZENS IN BERLIN, "THE CAPITAL OF THE GDR"  
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(REF A). UNLIKE THE APPROACH TO US, THE FOREIGN  
MINISTRY DID NOT INDICATE AHEAD OF TIME THAT THE  
SUBJECT OF BERLIN MIGHT BE RAISED IN THESE DISCUSSIONS,  
WHICH WERE ALLEGEDLY OF A PURELY BILATERAL NATURE.

2. IN THE CASE OF THE FRENCH, THE GDR FOREIGN  
MINISTRY MADE NO REFERENCE TO A SPECIFIC TIME PERIOD

FOR THE ALLEGED TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS, NOTING ONLY THAT FRENCH CITIZENS, BOTH CIVILIAN AND MILITARY, HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN ACCIDENTS TOTALING AROUND \$4500.-. THE FRENCH RESPONDED THAT IF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY WISHED TO RAISE PROBLEMS WITH THE FRENCH EMBASSY CONCERNING BERLIN, THIS WAS THE WRONG WAY AND THE FRENCH EMBASSY COULD DO NOTHING ABOUT IT. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY REPRESENTATIVE RESPONDED THAT WHEN FRENCH CITIZENS HAVE ACCIDENTS IN BERLIN, THE CAPITAL OF THE GDR, THE FRENCH EMBASSY IS COMPETENT IN SUCH MATTERS. THE FRENCH EMBASSY DCM CLOSED OFF THE CONVERSATION BY STATING THAT THE FRENCH EMBASSY WAS NOT COMPETENT, AND THAT IT KNEW THE GDR POSITION AS WELL AS THE GDR KNOWING THE POSITION OF THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT ON THIS MATTER.

3. IN THE CASE OF THE BRITISH EMBASSY, THE FOREIGN MINISTRY REPRESENTATIVE ASSERTED THAT BRITISH CITIZENS HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN 151 VIOLATIONS OF BERLIN TRAFFIC REGULATIONS IN THE OCTOBER-DECEMBER 1977 PERIOD, AND MENTIONED A FIGURE ON THE AMOUNT OF DAMAGES DONE TO GDR CITIZENS AS A RESULT OF ACCIDENTS. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY REPRESENTATIVE ASKED THE BRITISH EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT SUCH VIOLATIONS BY BRITISH SUBJECTS. THE BRITISH RESPONDED THAT NEITHER THEY NOR THE FOREIGN MINISTRY WERE THE CONFIDENTIAL

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PROPER CHANNEL FOR THE DISCUSSION OF SUCH MATTERS.

4. COMMENT. DURING A DISCUSSION AMONG THE DCMS OF THE THREE WESTERN EMBASSIES OF THESE RECENT APPROACHES BY THE GDR FOREIGN MINISTRY, THERE WAS AGREEMENT THAT THE GDR IS CONTINUING WITH INCREASING FREQUENCY TO TRY TO INVOLVE THE THREE WESTERN ALLIES HERE AS WELL AS IN CAPITALS IN DISCUSSIONS ON BERLIN MATTERS. IN ADDITION TO THE GDR APPROACHES TO THE THREE EMBASSIES IN EAST BERLIN LAST AUGUST, NOVEMBER AND NOW, THE BRITISH NOTED THAT GDR EMBASSY OFFICIALS HAVE TWICE RAISED BERLIN ISSUES IN LONDON; THE FRENCH EMBASSY IS AWARE OF ONE APPROACH IN PARIS, AND WE HAVE HAD THE JAN. 25 APPROACH BY GDR POLITICAL COUNSELOR SIEMENS WITH EUR/CE DIRECTOR WOESSNER (REF B). THERE WAS ALSO GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT SOME COORDINATED AND AGREED-ON APPROACH SHOULD BE ADOPTED IN THE LIKELY EVENT THAT THE GDR FOREIGN MINISTRY CONTINUES TO TRY TO RAISE BERLIN ISSUES WITH US. IN THIS REGARD, THERE WAS INFORMAL AGREEMENT THAT ONE POSSIBLE APPROACH TO BE PUT TO CAPITALS FOR CONSIDERATION WOULD BE SIMPLY TO INTERRUPT ANY FOREIGN MINISTRY INTERLOCUTOR WHO BEGINS TO RAISE BERLIN

ISSUES, NOTING THAT EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVES ARE NOT  
PREPARED TO LISTEN TO ANY PRESENTATIONS ON THE SUBJECT.  
IT WAS SUGGESTED THAT PERHAPS THE SOVIETS MAY NOT  
BE AWARE THAT THE EAST GERMANS WERE ATTEMPTING SUCH  
APPROACHES, AND THAT IT MIGHT BE APPROPRIATE FOR  
THE MISSIONS IN WEST BERLIN AT SOME POINT TO TAKE  
THE INITIATIVE IN RAISING THE GDR APPROACHES WITH  
THE SOVIETS. THERE WAS ALSO GENERAL FEELING THAT  
PERHAPS THE BONN GROUP (MINUS THE FRG) SHOULD BE THE  
FOCUS FOR ANY SUCH EFFORTS TO COORDINATE THE POSITION  
THAT EMBASSIES HERE SHOULD TAKE ON THE ISSUE. THE  
EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE INITIAL REACTIONS BY THE  
DEPARTMENT AND EMBASSY BONN TO THE FOREGOING.  
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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**TAGS:** PGOV, MILI, GC, UR, BQG  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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